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18 July 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, USIB Telecommunications  
Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Review of Intelligence Communications

1. As I believe [ ] of this staff has discussed with you, a recent meeting of the Intelligence Resources Advisory Committee (IRAC) focused on the question of hidden communications support costs in intelligence programs, taking the lead from the IDEW study and the prospective budgets which seem to be involved in the out years. It was the sense of this meeting, chaired by the Director, that a quick look should be taken at this problem. Subsequent to the IRAC meeting, we asked [ ] to pull together terms of reference for such a study and this is attached.

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2. I believe the attached tasking falls logically within the purview of your subcommittee and that you should undertake the study. If you have any questions on this, please let me know, as I believe the study should get under way with little delay.

(Signed) Bronson Tweedy

Bronson Tweedy  
D/DCI/IC

Attachment

Draft T/R classified SECRET

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TERMS OF REFERENCE:  
REVIEW OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNICATIONS

BACKGROUND

At its 19 June meeting, IRAC decided that its Working Group should carry out "a quick review of requirements for intelligence communications and of the programs and costs involved to enable IRAC to evaluate potential resource commitments for plans underway and to consider the need for an in-depth examination of this subject." Some relevant work has already been done. Under the aegis of the Intelligence Information Handling Committee of USIB, a study dealing with the technical aspects of data exchange in the Washington area has been completed. A similar examination of the exchange of indications and warning intelligence has been carried out by the same Committee. And an ad hoc group established by the Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence Community has reported on the requirement for data exchange at Washington level from the user's point of view.

These studies may prove useful to an IRAC appreciation of the communications problem--cost data will be available for some parts of what is proposed in the IDEW and IWIN studies. They are, however, limited to communications arrangements in the Washington area. To be meaningful for the primary purpose of IRAC the review will need to include communications assets used in support of intelligence activities worldwide.

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## TASKS

For the purpose of this initial assessment, the review should not undertake an in-depth examination of the validity of communications requirements in the future; this would entail protracted consideration of the nature of the warning requirement during the coming years, the need to move large volumes of raw data over long distances for processing, the communications support for major new collection systems, and a number of other factors impossible to evaluate quickly. Rather, the review should be framed around the following tasks:

- a. Identify and describe the record communications systems which support U.S. intelligence activities worldwide.
- b. Outline the extent to which these intelligence communications carry non-intelligence traffic and vice versa.
- c. Describe the major changes in these systems now planned by their managers, together with explanations of the improvements provided for in the several programs.
- d. Consolidate the costs (dollars and manpower) programmed for these systems during the next several years and define trends in communications costs as a percentage of overall intelligence resources.
- e. Record any major communications improvements or other changes having resource impact which individual agencies consider likely to be required but which are not yet programmed.

IMPLEMENTATION

The review should be conducted by the Telecommunications Working Group of USIB and the result considered and commented on by the Working Group of IRAC in a report to the Committee.